

## "Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 3

by Erik Olsen

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

### --INTRO:

--In Part 1 we looked at six steps to gaining a solid grasp of God's Word. In Part 2 we looked at repeated warnings in the New Testament about false teachers distorting God's Word. This week we're going to explore the profound nature of God's Word.

### --BY HIS WORD GOD SPOKE CREATION INTO EXISTENCE, AND BY HIS WORD HE MAKES US A NEW CREATION!

--Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

--"Genesis 1:3: "**Then God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light."

**--God didn't think creation into existence, He spoke creation into existence!**

--John 6:63: Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

	SPIRITUAL BIRTH	SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Word of God	--"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing <b>by the word of God.</b> " (Romans 10:14-17)	--Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but <b>by every word of God.</b> " (Luke 4:4)
Spirit of God	--We were " <b>born of the Spirit</b> " (John 3:5-8)	--1 Corinthians 2:13-15: "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 <b>The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God</b> , for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. "

--"**In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14)

--The Spirit helps us to understand the word of God... The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesians that God would give them the **spirit of wisdom and revelation [from the Spirit of God] in the knowledge of Him [from the Word of God]**, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened..." (Ephesians 1:17-18)

--Hebrews 4:11-12: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit..."

--Isaiah 55:11: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

--the Word of God only benefits those in whom the Spirit of God is working...

--those who do not benefit from God's Word:

--Ephesians 4:18: "They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of **the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.**"

--Hebrews 4:1-2: "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."

--John 8:47: Jesus said, "**he who is of God hears God's words**; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

--John 8:37-38: Jesus said to unbelieving Jews, "you seek to kill Me, **because My word has no place in you.**"

--those who benefit from God's Word:

--the "good soil" in Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-20)

--John 10:27-28: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."